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BUREAU OF VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE

# **World** **Military** **Expenditures and** **Arms** **Transfers** **1998**

Foreword, Highlights, Charts, Statistical Notes

Essay:  
Small Arms and Light Weapons

Country Rankings by Variable

Tables of Military and Economic Variables  
for 172 Countries, 1987-1997

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# Foreword

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This 27th issue of *World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers (WMEAT)* is published by the Department of State, following its merger with the previous publisher, the former U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The report covers 1987 to 1997, from the final years of the Berlin Wall through eight succeeding years. Thus, it depicts the transition from the Cold War in statistical terms.

The report shows that military spending in developing countries has been increasing since 1995, while that in developed countries may have reached the end of its decline. Arms imports of both groups have been increasing since 1994 and particularly in the last year. While armed forces continued to contract in the developed group, those of the developing group appear to have stabilized.

Regional data reveal some arresting trends, including sharp advances in military spending and arms imports in East Asia, South America, and North Africa. The individual countries causing the trends are of course shown in the data.

Indicators of military burden, such as the ratio of military spending to GNP, appear to have generally leveled and reached the bottom of their post-Cold War decline. They may be poised to rise again, and even the present levels are too high in many places in the developing world.

The report shows that the work of arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament cannot be relaxed, and indeed, greater efforts are needed now and in the future.

John D. Holum  
*Senior Adviser for Arms Control  
and International Security*

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# Preface

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This edition of *WMEAT* (pronounced "we-meet") is the 27<sup>th</sup> in the series, of which 26 were issued by the former U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. As before, the report is meant to serve as a convenient reference on annual military expenditures, arms transfers, armed forces, and related economic data, with this edition covering 172 countries over the 1987-1997 decade. The aim is to provide comprehensive, up-to-date, and accurate data, accompanied by pertinent analyses and highlights.

Copies of this report may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents (telephone no. 202 512-1800), whose Standing Order Service will also take orders for future editions (see last page).

This report is also available via the Internet on the Home Page of the Bureau of Verification and Compliance: <http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/bureauvc.html>; (use the *Reports* hotlink). Several previous editions may be found there, and the main tables and other portions of future editions will also be placed there in advance of the complete report to expedite availability. Additional analyses relating to *WMEAT* may appear on the Bureau's Home Page in the future.

Comments and questions regarding this publication are welcome. They may be directed to :

WMEAT  
Bureau of Verification and Compliance  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Editor: Daniel Gallik  
(202) 736-4290  
E-mail: [gallikda@acda.gov](mailto:gallikda@acda.gov)

Associate Editor: Dennis Winstead  
(202) 647-8881  
E-mail: [winstede@acda.gov](mailto:winstede@acda.gov)

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